From: Association of Deputy District Attorneys
To: Kutches, Brandon (SHF)
Subject: Monday Morning Memo for December 17, 2018
Date: Monday, December 17, 2018 5:04:54 AM

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Courts / Rulings

California Bail Reform: Chief Justice says overhaul will happen with or without new law
California Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye on Tuesday defended a landmark new state law abolishing money bail, saying it was crafted to ensure courts "do not judge a person based on the size of their wallet or what they have access to in someone else's wallet."
Tribune News Service

U.S. Supreme Court rule crimps GoFundMe backed amicus brief
A handful of organizations have recently resorted to GoFundMe campaigns to generate donations for covering the cost of producing amicus briefs filed with the U.S. Supreme Court. But because Redwood City-based GoFundMe allows for anonymous contributions, the nascent trend has hit a speed bump.
The Recorder

USC student expelled for sexual assault was denied due process by adjudicator
The Court of Appeal for this district has held that a USC student was denied due process before being expelled because the investigator/adjudicator who found that he had sexually assaulted a fellow student did not personally interview key witnesses to determine their credibility. The opinion by Justice Gail R. Feuer of Div. Seven was filed Tuesday.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

Brown names three to L.A. Superior Court
Gov. Jerry Brown on Friday appointed three persons to the Los Angeles Superior Court, all of whom will fill vacancies created by commissioner positions being converted to judgeships in October, and appointed 10 others to judgeships in other counties. There remain two vacancies on the Los Angeles trial bench, a spokesperson for the Governor's Office said.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

LAPD captain seeks personnel records of pair promoted over her
A veteran Los Angeles police captain who sued the city, alleging she suffered a backlash for revealing the department doctored violent crime statistics, wants a judge to turn over the personnel records of two male LAPD employees who were promoted to commander instead of her. Capt. Lillian Carranza maintains in her Los Angeles Superior court lawsuit filed Jan. 19 that after reporting the allegedly false crime data, "it was made clear to plaintiff that she will never advance or promote in the Los Angeles Police Department."
My News LA

California high court signals possible agreement with state on worker pension rollback

Confronting a public pension system with rising deficits, the California Supreme Court seemed inclined Wednesday to approve some legislative reductions in future retirement benefits for hundreds of thousands of state and local government workers, but not the far-reaching cuts backed by Gov. Jerry Brown. The justices heard arguments in Los Angeles on the right of public employees to buy additional retirement credits while still employed.
San Francisco Chronicle

Olivia de Havilland, now 102, will take 'feud' to Supreme Court
For more than a half a century, journalists have been given leeway when it comes to reporting about prominent individuals and institutions. Ever since the 1964 Supreme Court decision in New York Times Co. v. Sullivan, public figures must demonstrate actual malice in order to prevail in a defamation case. That means knowledge of falsity or reckless disregard of the truth.
Hollywood Reporter

Defense verdict in Rose rape case not marred by evidentiary error
A defense verdict in a civil case in which a woman accused basketball luminary Derrick Rose and two other men of raping her in 2013 was affirmed by the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday, with a three-judge panel rejecting the contention that evidence of text messages relating to a "sex belt" was improperly admitted.
Metropolitan News-Enterprise

California Supreme Court waiting for study results before revisiting bar exam cut score
While describing the outcome of the July 2018 California bar exam - which had a 40.7 percent pass rate - as "frightening," California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye said on Tuesday the state court is waiting for the results of two related studies before revisiting consideration of the test's cut score.
ABA Journal

LA Community College District to settle Pierce College free speech lawsuit
The Los Angeles Community College District has agreed to settle a lawsuit brought by a Pierce College student against the school over student free speech rights, it was announced Thursday. In the March 2017 lawsuit, filed in Los Angeles federal court, plaintiff Kevin Shaw alleged that the community college in Woodland Hills violated his civil rights when he was barred from passing out copies of the U.S. Constitution because he wasn't in the school's "free speech" zone - an outdoor area roughly the size of three parking spaces - and because he hadn't applied in advance to use it.
My News LA

Prosecutors / Prosecutions

Los Angeles deputy charged in unarmed man's death
A deputy with the nation's largest sheriff's department was charged Tuesday with voluntary manslaughter in what a prosecutor said was the "unjustified and unreasonable" fatal shooting of an unarmed man - a move that marked the first time in more than 18 years a police officer in the massive county has been charged in an on-duty shooting. Los Angeles County sheriff's Deputy Luke Liu pleaded not guilty in the shooting death of 26-year-old Francisco Garcia.
AP

California serial killer trial could cost $20 million
The trial of a former police officer suspected of being a notorious serial killer who terrorized California in the 1970s and 80s could cost taxpayers more than $20 million. A Sacramento County official said Wednesday the county has asked the state to help shoulder the costs for prosecuting Joseph DeAngelo.
AP

Suspect accused of randomly pushing man under truck in downtown LA charged with attempted murder
A suspect accused in a brazen attack caught on video in which a man was pushed under the wheels of a truck in downtown Los Angeles was charged Friday. Garrett Joseph Boldt, 41, was charged with one felony count of premeditated attempted murder, three felony counts of assault by means of force likely to produce great bodily injury and one misdemeanor count of petty theft.
ABC7

Ex-CHP lieutenant's condoms for '13-year-old' who was really undercover agent?
A retired California Highway Patrol lieutenant brought a key-lime pie, camera and condoms to a meeting in a Laguna Beach park with an undercover agent posing as a 13-year-old girl, a prosecutor told a jury Tuesday. "Stephen (Robert) Deck, the man sitting there, drove an hour from his home in Carlsbad to Laguna Beach," Senior Deputy District Attorney Robert Mestman said in his opening statement in the defendant's retrial.
My News LA

Why former San Bernardino County assessor is headed to state prison - not county jail - for Colonies conviction
Former San Bernardino County Assessor and Colonies corruption figure Bill Postmus will be serving his three-year sentence in state prison after all, his attorney says. When Postmus, 47, surrendered to authorities Nov. 30 to begin serving his sentence, his attorney said he qualified under prison realignment as a "triple-non offender" and likely would serve his time at a San Bernardino County jail.

San Bernardino Sun

Ventura County DA disappointed in governor's choice to reduce sentence in Camarillo murder
Ventura County District Attorney Greg Totten this week expressed "disappointment" over Gov. Jerry Brown's decision to commute the life-without-parole prison sentence for a man convicted of a 1986 murder and armed robbery. Totten reacted to the governor's commutation in a news release issued Monday. In August, Totten wrote to an investigator for the state Board of Parole Hearings and opposed Todd Hess' Feb. 21 application for a commutation of his sentence.
Ventura County Star

More jail time for suspected Calabasas burglar
A Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner Thursday sentenced a suspected serial burglar to additional jail time for violating the terms of court-supervised release that followed prison terms for burglary and weapons possession. Anthony Rauda, 42, was ordered to serve 180 days in County jail for being caught with a gun and ammunition. Rauda was given 130 days credit for the time he's already been in jail since his arrest near Malibu Creek State Park in October.
NBC4

Criminal Justice / Public Safety

DA Gascón carried guns on planes, then whistle-blower was fired, suit says
A former senior investigator says he was fired for blowing the whistle on his boss, San Francisco District Attorney George Gascón, who he alleged carried a gun while flying - in violation of federal law. Gascón reacted with a "pattern of retaliation and harassment" that culminated in the termination of senior investigator Henry G. McKenzie on Oct. 30, 2017, according to the suit filed in U.S. District Court in San Francisco.
San Francisco Chronicle

When life unravels, where do police officers turn for help?
David Swailes was a 10-year Los Angeles Police Department veteran who was married to his high school sweetheart. A father of four boys, he was making plans for a family trip to Disneyland. His wife of 14 years had noticed something was horribly wrong in recent months. His behavior had changed. There were fits of rage. He wasn't sleeping well and having nightmares when he did sleep.
NBC4

Are L.A. County deputies still 'dumping' vulnerable people? An injured artist's case revives concerns
Stafford Taylor was his usual self, vigorous and sharp-minded, when he left a friend's party late on the Fourth of July. But sometime after, the 64-year-old Malibu artist and master carpenter was attacked and left

wandering Pacific Coast Highway. He didn't receive medical attention for hours, his family says, because the sheriff's deputies who picked him up left him at a day laborer's center.
Los Angeles Times

BART police get big pay hike
BART directors voted unanimously today to approve a new four-year contract with the transit district's police officers that will give them a 16 percent pay raise over the next four years. BART officials said salaries for police officers are rapidly rising nationwide and the new labor package is needed to brings their officers closer to average salaries in the Bay Area.
Bay City News

With marijuana legal, lawmakers warn public about DWI dangers during holidays
With the first holiday season approaching since recreational marijuana was legalized in the state, Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, District Attorney Jackie Lacey and law enforcement officials warned the public Monday about the dangers of driving after using the drug and the legal penalties it could bring. "We have long known that alcohol and driving can be a lethal combination. Using cannabis and driving can be equally deadly," Feuer said.
NBC4

Policy & Legal Issues

Privacy advocates take another shot at DNA database
The state of California shouldn't analyze and retain DNA from people who were arrested but never convicted of a felony, privacy advocates claim in court. Two social justice groups, the Center for Genetics and Society and the Equal Justice Society, and CGS consultant Pete Shanks, say the state's policy of keeping a DNA database populated with genetic information from hundreds of thousands of people violates California's constitutional privacy protections.
Courthouse News Service

Felony-murder rule gets a fix, but jury still out on bail reform
The felony-murder rule is a common criminal law concept that has become an unjust staple of our justice system. The rule is such a predominant concept that every first-year law student learns about it - and quickly realizes it cuts against almost all of the logic behind criminal public policy. Experts in the field have long seen the rule as draconian, even barbaric.
Ventura County Star

How counties can use evidence-based policymaking to achieve better outcomes
Counties play an essential role in delivering front-line services to

residents. From administering state and federal benefits to operating jails and supporting local hospitals, they invest more than $550 billion annually in their communities, according to the National Association of Counties (NACo). Given the scope of their responsibilities, counties also have a significant opportunity to improve the quality and efficiency of the programs that serve their residents.
Pew

L.A. County Sheriff Alex Villanueva tells hundreds of top staff to hand in résumés and temporarily remove rank insignia
Alex Villanueva began his term as Los Angeles County sheriff by immediately removing 18 top executives. Now he has told nearly 500 other supervisors on his staff that their jobs too are being reevaluated. In a massive review, all lieutenants, captains and commanders have been asked to hand in forms that detail their years of experience.
Los Angeles Times

LA County sheriff suspends team over Latino traffic stops
The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department has suspended a unit that stopped thousands of innocent Latinos on a freeway to search for drugs. A spokeswoman tells the Los Angeles Times Friday that the Domestic Highway Enforcement Team was suspended last month and its deputies reassigned while operations are under review. Newly elected Sheriff Alex Villanueva says he supports the move.
CBS LA/AP

Crime

Simi Valley home burglary caught on camera
A pair of burglars made off with tens of thousands of dollars worth of valuables and irreplaceable family heirlooms following a break-in at a home in the Wood Ranch neighborhood of Simi Valley on Friday evening. The residents told KTLA they suspect the burglars had been watching them, since the break-in took place just a minute after they left home for dinner.
KTLA

Detectives investigate death of school police officer at elementary school campus in Hollywood Hills
An investigation is underway after the body of a Los Angeles School Police Department officer was discovered on the grounds of a Hollywood Hills elementary school late Sunday. The discovery was made about 4:15 p.m. at Valley View Elementary School, 6921 Woodrow Wilson Drive, school police officials said. Fellow school police officers first found the body, described only as male, Los Angeles Police Department Lt. Chris Ramirez said.
KTLA

Parolee in custody after allegedly raping woman he met on Metro

Green Line
A parolee is in custody after he allegedly raped a woman he had just met on the Metro Green Line, El Segundo police said Saturday. Kerry Frank Lathon, 35, was arrested Friday evening in Gardena by task force officers from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the U.S. Marshals Service, police said. The alleged victim said Lathon introduced himself to her about 6 a.m. Sunday on the Metro Green Line near the Redondo Beach Station, police said.
Los Angeles Times

Homeless crime jumps nearly 50 percent in Los Angeles, LAPD says (Video)
The number of crimes in which homeless individuals were listed as suspects increased by nearly 50 percent in the city of Los Angeles in 2018. Crime data provided by the Los Angeles Police Department showed there were 8,906 crime reports between Jan. 1 and Dec. 1 this year in which a homeless person was listed as the suspect, compared with 5,976 for the same time period in 2017.
NBC4

How a telescope forum feud ended with prison time
When the FBI appeared at David Goodyear's doorstep in August 2016, they started asking him about telescopes. The 42-year-old IT specialist and avid stargazer had frequented an astronomy forum called Cloudy Nights. Now, someone had taken the forum offline with a denial-of-service attack, and the evidence pointed to Goodyear. Goodyear swore innocence at first, but after increasingly pointed questioning, he confessed.
The Verge

Star drummer Robin DiMaggio accused of embezzling $750,000 from charity for homeless kids
Robin DiMaggio, a star drummer who has performed with many of the most famous names in music, has been charged with embezzling hundreds of thousands of dollars from a charity concert for homeless and displaced children in the world's conflict zones, prosecutors said. DiMaggio, 47, of the Woodland Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles, was arrested Friday on a single felony charge of wire fraud.
NBC News

FBI releases 2017 NIBRS crime data as transition to NIBRS 2021 continues
The FBI released detailed data on nearly 6.3 million criminal offenses reported via the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) in 2017. The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program's latest report, NIBRS, 2017, presents data about victims, known offenders, and relationships for offenses reported in 52 categories. In addition, the report provides information on arrests for those crimes as well as 10

additional categories for which only arrest data is collected.
FBI Press Release

L.A. County D.A. releases OIS reviews, says no charges to be filed
Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey Monday released reviews of nine officer-involved shootings, four of which were fatal and all of which were found to be either accidental or a lawful use of force in self-defense, the defense of others or to prevent a crime. The four men killed were Ryan Joseph, Vincent Hernandez Jr., Eric Bogart and 17-year-old Armando Garcia-Muro, who was accidentally shot by a ricocheting bullet when deputies fired on a charging pit bull that had bitten one deputy.
My News LA

Bomb threats emailed across US demand Bitcoin ransom
A wave of bomb threats swept across the United States on Thursday, prompting evacuations at courthouses, businesses, schools and places of worship. Multiple police agencies across the country, including in Alaska, New Orleans, California, New York and in Washington, D.C., said they are aware of an email claiming bombs were placed inside businesses. The New York Police Department said no devices have been recovered and doesn't consider the threats credible.
Courthouse News Service

Prop 47, 57 & AB 109

S.J. Sheriff's Office has task force check on parolees
I arrived at the Lodi Grape Festival Grounds just before noon on Thursday, where I met with Deputy Rich Garcia of the San Joaquin County Sheriff's Office who introduced me to Deputy Jared Perkins, Stockton Police Officer Antoinette Laffranchini and other members of the AB 109 Task Force, which was created to monitor and track prisoners released on parole or probation.
Lodi News-Sentinel

Convictions / Sentences

Man sentenced to probation in Studio City hit-and-run death of singer-songwriter Robert Meurer
A 55-year-old man who fled the scene of a vehicle-versus-pedestrian crash in Studio City that killed a musical collaborator of singer Christopher Cross was sentenced Monday to three years formal probation. George Ronald Nicoletti, who earlier pleaded no contest to hit-and-run driving resulting in death, was also ordered to complete 18 months of mental health counseling as part of the sentence negotiated with prosecutors.
City News Service

Former school janitor accused of sexually abusing 10 girls in City of Industry sentenced to 14 years in prison
A former janitor at a City of Industry middle school accused of sexually abusing 10 girls on campus was sentenced Tuesday to 14 years in state prison, according to the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Michael Anthony Barry, 60, of La Puente pleaded "no contest" on Nov. 8 to five counts of lewd acts upon a child, five misdemeanor counts of child molesting and one misdemeanor count of contributing to the delinquency of a minor, the DA's office said in a news release.
KTLA

Death sentences on the decline, report finds
In 2015 and again in 2017, California's Riverside County held the grim distinction of sending more people to death row than any other county in the nation. But so far this year, no one in Riverside County has been sentenced to death, reflecting a trend seen in California and across the country, according to a new report. Five California counties, among the 10 with the most death sentences nationwide in the last five years, either had no sentences or no more than two, according to the report by the Death Penalty Information Center.
Los Angeles Times

Final defendant in deadly 2014 attack on USC student found guilty of murder
The last of the four people to be tried in the fatal beating of a University of Southern California student was found guilty of first-degree murder and other charges Wednesday. Jurors handed down the verdict after about two hours of deliberation, convicting 21-year-old Alberto Ochoa of murder, second-degree robbery, attempted second-degree robbery and assault with a deadly weapon. He will be sentenced on March 8.
KTLA

Los Angeles County

Other juvenile lockups are shunning pepper spray, but its use is on the rise in LA
The pregnant girl was terrified when she was hit by a burning stream of pepper spray fired by a Los Angeles County probation officer trying to break up a fight involving others at a juvenile hall. She couldn't breathe. The chili pepper-infused chemical burned her skin. "I thought I was going to die," the girl said later, in a recollection recorded in documents obtained by NBC4. "I was scared... It was a terrible day."
NBC4

Here's how to help victims of the Woolsey fire
Here are some ways to help victims of the Woolsey and Hill wildfires through donations or directing them to helpful services. JAN. 12-13 REO Speedwagon concerts: Proceeds from two concerts go to Ventura County Community Foundation for victims of Borderline shooting and

Woolsey fire, 8 p.m. Jan. 12; 7 p.m. Jan. 13. Tickets $61 and up. Kavli Theatre at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd. 805-449-2787. www.civicartsplaza.com
Los Angeles Daily News

Eight curious things about new Sheriff Alex Villanueva
Last week, Angelenos bore witness to something extraordinary. For once, it didn't involve Downtown City Councilman José Huizar. On Monday, Dec. 3, thousands of people gathered in a faded auditorium on the campus of East Los Angeles College for the swearing in of Alex Villanueva as the 33rd Sheriff of Los Angeles County. If you just said "Who?" you're not alone - almost no one outside the Villanueva family had heard of the 55-year-old even seven months ago.
LA Downtown News

LA County agrees to support services for newly discharged inmates
Los Angeles County has agreed to new policies ensuring that all mentally ill jail inmates be given pre-discharge planning, including a referral to a social worker or prescription for medications, before they are set free, attorneys announced Friday. According to the settlement agreement filed Thursday in Los Angeles federal court, previous inmate-release planning failed to adequately address the needs of mentally disabled prisoners under the American with Disabilities Act when released from custody by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.
NBC4

County selects new project for San Pedro courthouse parcel, still needs supervisor approval
Market-rate and affordable housing, ground-floor retail with a grocery store and open space has been proposed for San Pedro's shuttered courthouse property, 505 S. Centre St., according to new plans released Wednesday evening, Dec. 12. It's the second attempt to solidify a project for the block after an earlier developer was not able to finalize a deal with the county, despite months of exclusive negotiations.
Torrance Daily Breeze

LA County seeks ways to reduce incarceration of pregnant girls
Nearly 5 percent of young women booked into county detention centers or jail tested positive for pregnancy in 2017, leading two members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to push Tuesday for more resources aimed at improving their care and reducing those numbers. The 50 young women ranged in age from 14 to 19, though nearly three-quarters were 17 or 18 years old. Their alleged offenses ranged from petty theft to one charged with murder.
NBC4

Consumer News

Walmart holiday shoppers face fraudulent sellers and counterfeit
Holiday shoppers expect Walmart to provide honest services, authentic, and safe products when they shop on Walmart's website - but that doesn't happen. Walmart's push to capture a portion of the exploding e-commerce marketplace, exposes a seedy and dishonest practice - selling counterfeits. Walmart is a both a direct retailer of counterfeits, and has opened its website, Walmart.com, to global third-party sellers who can list just about anything they want, including counterfeit, fake and replica products.
The Counterfeit Report

Corrections

San Quentin deaths come amid increase in drug overdoses at prison
The recent deaths of two inmates on California's death row at San Quentin State Prison took place as Marin County health paramedics received a "spike" in calls from the prison related to opioid overdoses, according to the county's top health official. Dr. Matt Willis, Marin County's public health officer, said in the past six months the county's emergency medical services responded to 155 ambulance calls at San Quentin.
KQED

Should Gov. Brown have to answer investigator's questions about prison psychiatry care?
Lawyers for the state are pushing back on a federal judge's plan to appoint a special investigator to look into whether correction officials provided false or misleading data to the court, arguing that giving the expert authority to interview Gov. Jerry Brown goes too far. At issue are claims by Dr. Michael Golding, the state prison system's chief psychiatrist, who has accused his own employers of providing misleading data on the amount and quality of psychiatric care inmates are receiving in California prisons.
Fresno Bee

Drug-trafficking ring run from prison busted in California
Authorities say a year-long investigation of drugs sold by gang members taking orders from a prison boss resulted in 14 arrests - and more are likely. The Ventura County Star reported Monday that search warrants were served at 10 locations last week, including at an Imperial County prison. Officers seized heroin, methamphetamine and cocaine, along with handguns, ammunition and a large stash of cash.
AP

2 inmates stabbed during riot at San Diego prison
Authorities say two inmates have been stabbed during a riot at a Southern California prison. California correction officials say 20 to 25 prisoners began rioting late Monday morning in a yard at the Richard J.

Donovan Correctional Facility near San Diego. Guards used pepper spray to break up the riot. Authorities say two inmates were taken to a hospital for treatment of stab wounds but there's no immediate word on their conditions.
AP

California / National

With a powerful supermajority, California Democrats want to spend, spend, spend. Will Newsom rein them in?
The new two-year legislative session wasn't even one day old when Democrats introduced bills to spend countless billions of tax dollars. Money to provide Medi-Cal healthcare coverage for immigrants of all ages living here illegally. A big boost in K-12 school funding. Free community college tuition in a student's second year. Introducing a bill is easy. From there, it's usually a long, arduous journey to final passage and a governor's signature.
Los Angeles Times

The fallacy of the Black Lives Matter movement
The Black Lives Matter movement, which started out as a genuine outcry for justice, mainly among black males, has now lost its legitimacy and deteriorated into an excuse for unacceptable behavior. I am an African-American male who lives in the East New York neighborhood of Brooklyn, which has the highest crime rate in the city. Murders, robberies, gang violence, and shootings happen here on a regular basis.
American Thinker

Janus

Defying predictions, union membership isn't dropping post-Janus
Five months ago, the U.S. Supreme Court dealt what was seen as a massive blow to unions in Janus v. AFSCME. The justices banned the collection of union fees from public workers who receive union-negotiated benefits but choose not to belong to the union. The ruling had an immediate negative effect on union finances.
Governing

The Supreme Court dealt a blow to unions, but it wasn't a knockout
There's no question that the U.S. Supreme Court's June ruling in Janus v.AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) hurt organized labor. The court's 5-to-4 opinion found that public-sector unions violated the First Amendment by collecting agency fees from workers who aren't union members.
New York Magazine

Guns

Chicago police battle flow of firearms
Ke'Shon Newman's daily routine is guided by guns - the hundreds of illegal pistols, revolvers and other firearms that torment his South Side neighborhood. He walks on brightly lit streets, the ones lined with Jamaican jerk and seafood joints, minimarkets, the White Castle, a Shell gas station. If shooting erupts, he wants witnesses - and, if necessary, help. He listens to music with one earbud, to hear approaching footsteps, and avoids clothing with hoods that might block his peripheral vision.
AP

The myths and truths about Chicago's guns and murder rate
Chicago police are wrestling with gun violence, blamed largely on gangs. President Donald Trump has frequently singled out the city for criticism , calling the crime problem "a total disaster" and claiming Chicago has the strongest guns laws in the nation and still hasn't been able to curb violence. But there are common misunderstandings about Chicago's homicide rate and how the city regulates firearms.
AP

Homeless

Protesters shut down Mayor Garcetti speech at USC over homeless policies
Protesters forced Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti to cut short a speech at the University of Southern California amid a heated exchange over his approach to the city's homelessness crisis. Garcetti was less than a minute into a speech in front of around 350 people when protesters stood up and interrupted him, according to the Los Angeles Times. The protesters were part of Los Angeles Community Action Network, the Democratic Socialists of America, and other groups that have protested the mayor over his policies.
The Real Deal

LA extends rules against sleeping in vehicles
The Los Angeles City Council unanimously voted to extend a temporary set of rules Tuesday that prohibit people from sleeping overnight in cars, RVs, and other vehicles. The policy directly affects the nearly 9,000 homeless residents who live in cars, trucks, and camper vans across the city of Los Angeles. Its prohibitions primarily apply to residential areas and parking spots near schools and parks, leaving streets in industrial and commercial areas clear for use by people living in vehicles - at least in theory.
Curbed Los Angeles

Centennial project an important step in solving LA's housing crisis
Los Angeles County is, and has been, in a deep housing deficit. According to the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA), the

County is short as many as 72,000 housing units by 2021. Spiking home prices and rents are hurting LA's hardworking families and putting a crimp on many business's ability to recruit and retain good workers. Putting home ownership, or even a decent apartment, so far beyond the grasp of most workers makes Los Angeles County unaffordable, unattractive, and unlivable.
Whittier Daily News

Pensions

Promised pension benefits in California can be cut, Jerry Brown's attorneys argue
Gov. Jerry Brown's administration on Wednesday made an expansive legal case for allowing the state to adjust pension benefits for public employees. Brown's lawyers, defending one of the outgoing Democratic governor's signature laws at a California Supreme Court hearing, argued the Legislature can adjust retirement benefits offered to current public employees as long the workers receive a "reasonable and substantial" pension.
Sacramento Bee

Unfunded pension liabilities looming over local governments
Unfunded pension liability costs tripled over two years for the city of Eureka, another factor in a growing pension crisis that local officials say needs to be addressed. Retirement contributions by California public employers have gone up over the past decade, but the amount employees contribute from their own incomes is rising just as fast. Eureka employees funding their own retirements will pay a total of $3.6 million this fiscal year, up from less than $1 million in the 2015-16 fiscal year.
Times-Standard

California's pension fund says no to tobacco stocks but yes to marijuana stocks
The California Public Employees' Retirement System, the biggest pension fund in the U.S., won't invest in tobacco companies. But apparently it doesn't have an issue with marijuana producers. The fund's third-quarter filing of holdings to the Securities and Exchange Commission shows that it has a small position in Tilray stock. As of Sept. 30, the pension fund, commonly known as Calpers, owned 1,617 shares of the Canadian maker of cannabis for medical and recreational adult use.
Barron's

Immigration

Did judge and prosecutor shield criminal illegal alien from ICE?
My article today is predicated on the December 2, 2018 Boston Globe report, "ICE agent was in courthouse. Did judge and others help man flee?" Incredibly, a district court judge is now being investigated by

a federal grand jury into her actions earlier this year, when she is believed to have acted, in concert with a prosecutor, to enable an illegal alien from the Dominican Republic to escape justice.
Frontpage Mag

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